(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Violation on safety norms by private airlines

446. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are reports of private airlines violating the safety norms;

(b) if so, the details of such cases reported;

(c) whether Government is aware of the reports that a private aircraft took off from an unlit airstrip at Dumka in Jharkhand;

(d) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted into this incident; and

(e) if so, the details of the report along with the action taken on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One case was reported in the year 2009.

(c) Yes, Sir. On 19.10.2009, C - 525 aircraft VT - PSB of M/s Orbit Aviation took off after sunset from Dumka Airstrip, which is an uncontrolled airfield in the twilight period.

(d) and (e) Investigation revealed that the aircraft took off after sunset, in violation of safety guidelines and Visual Flight Rules. Based on investigation both the pilots were grounded for 15 days and were given warning to not to repeat such lapses.

Construction of new airports

447. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new airports under construction in the country;

(b) the estimated cost of each of the airports and status of their constructions;

(c) the methodology adopted in financing the projects and their tender procedure;

(d) the number of airports proposed to be approved in private sector, their location and cost involved in each case; and

(e) the estimated time of completion of each of the airports under construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) One new Greenfield airport namely, Pakyong in Sikkim is under construction by Airports Authority of India (AAI) with schedule date of completion as January 2012. The estimated project cost is Rs.309 crores. The project is to be funded from the Government of India's fund (90%) and internal resources of AAI (10%) and executed by following open tender procedure.

As per the Greenfield Airport Policy, the proposal for setting up of Greenfield Airports are also received from the promoters from time-to-time and considered by a Steering Committee for 'in-principle' approval. After the announcement of Greenfield Airport Policy, 'in principle' approval has been given for the establishment of 12 airports for public use namely Mopa (Goa), Navi Mumbai, Sindhudurg (Maharashtra), Kannur (Kerala), Bijapur, Simoga, Hassan, Gulbarga (Karnataka), Dabra Airport, Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), Durga Pur (West Bengal).

The cost, location, completion schedule, etc. of such proposals are project specific, the firmed up details of which are furnished by the promoters on finalization of Detailed Project Report.

Difference in airfares from Gulf countries to India

448. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast difference in the fares of air travel from the Gulf countries to various cities in India and in Kerala;

(b) the basis on which the airfares are worked out; and

(c) what are the reasons for the difference in the fares?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The Government does not regulate airline fares. It is for the airlines themselves to decide fares as per their revenue management and competition with the other airlines operating on a particular route and having regard to all relevant factors including their cost of operations, characteristics and level of service etc.

Increase in the share capital of AAI

†449. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has permitted to increase the share capital of Airports Authority of India (AAI);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the sectors wherein this amount will be utilized by AAI for the benefits of the activities of the company and welfare of its employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Airport at Kota, Rajasthan

†450. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.